

and extending into the seventies, Albania was the worst, brutal Communist dictatorship on the face of the Earth. They broke with the Soviet Union because it wasn't doctrinaire enough, and they broke with China because China wasn't doctrinaire enough. As to the lies they told the Albanian people all these years about Americans, do you know what? The Albanian people never bought it.

It has been my experience as the founder and the chair of the Albanian Issues Caucus here in Congress for 24 years that Albanians are the best friends Americans have anywhere in the world. They love Americans. I am so happy that, today, they celebrate their 100th anniversary.

Albania is a member of NATO, and Kosova is a free and independent nation that we hope one day will be a member of NATO and the European Union for both Albania and Kosova. Albanians around the world, be they in the Balkans, in Serbia, in Macedonia or Montenegro, are all sharing in this wonderful day. As to the great Albanian American community that we have in the United States, particularly in New York, I am just so proud to work with them.

So let's hold up a glass and celebrate this wonderful 100th anniversary, and let's use the Albanian phrase, "Gezuar"—"Cheers."

AVOIDING THE FISCAL CLIFF

(Ms. HAHN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HAHN. This morning, The New York Times featured an article about California's resurging economy, which was one of the States hit hardest by the recession. After years of struggle, our housing market is bouncing back, and our unemployment rate is the lowest it has been since 2009. Yet this fiscal cliff threatens to drive my State and the rest of the Nation back into the recession we have been climbing out of. The inability for us to compromise would mean that millions more would be unemployed, that there would be higher taxes on the already struggling families, and that there would be cuts to the programs that so many livelihoods depend on.

We are putting the progress that our economy has made at risk. Now is not the time for politics as usual. This holiday season, our constituents deserve better, and I am calling on Democrats and on my friends across the aisle to come together to do what needs to be done to keep our country on track.

Let's put our politics aside. Let's find a way to come together. We know we have differences. Let's work on our common ground so that we can move forward for the American people, whom we love and serve.

FAILURE TO YIELD

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, according to a report by the National Economic Council, if the economy goes over the fiscal cliff, it could cut consumer spending by over \$200 billion. In other words, if we come to a consensus with a financial plan and agree, it could be a \$200 billion stimulus to our economy. Having a plan in place would also give certainty to businesses and our markets, adding an additional stimulus.

Failing to take action could slow the growth of our real GDP by 1.4 percentage points in 2013, and allowing the middle class tax cuts to expire would increase Federal taxes on a typical middle class family of four by \$2,200 in 1 year. Continued gridlock would throw the U.S. back into a recession and would cause the jobless rate to go up. Congress would be stuffing a big piece of coal into the stockings of Americans by not coming together and getting a consensus plan.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Natural Resources:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 28, 2012.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: The purpose of this letter is to accept a position on the Agriculture Committee and tender my resignation from the Natural Resources Committee, effective immediately.

Sincerely,

JOHN GARAMENDI,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted.
There was no objection.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 29 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1255

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MARCHANT) at 12 o'clock and 55 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair

will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

THOMAS P. O'NEILL, JR. FEDERAL BUILDING

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6604) to designate the federal building currently known as Federal Office Building 8, located at 200 C Street Southwest in the District of Columbia, as the "Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. Federal Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6604

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The federal building currently known as Federal Office Building 8, located at 200 C Street Southwest in the District of Columbia, shall be known and designated as the "Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. Federal Building".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the federal building referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. Federal Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. DENHAM) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. CAPUANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 6604.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I'd like to thank the majority for bringing this bill up. This is a nice way to honor the longest-continuously-serving Speaker in the history of this country.

For those of you who didn't have the pleasure of knowing Mr. O'Neill, I'd just like to remind everybody that I don't look at him as the historic figure up on the podium. I look at him as a man that I knew a fair amount of my adult life, anyway, and as a man who never forgot where he came from. And I know that's in a phrase that people hear all the time; but for me personally, when people say that of them, it's probably the nicest thing they can say. Everyone who serves in Congress